

## **WHAT IS CLAIMED IS**

1. An image processing method comprising:  
carrying out a compression process that divides an image into a plurality of divided regions and compresses the divided regions in a state where each of the divided regions are independent of one another; and  
setting boundaries of the divided regions in order to approximately match boundaries of one or a plurality of image regions that are within the image and have aspect ratios and/or sizes different from those of the image.
2. The image processing method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the compression process employs a compression algorithm in conformance with JPEG2000, and wherein setting boundaries of the divided regions includes approximately matching boundaries of tiles, precincts or code blocks used in the compression process to the boundaries of the one or plurality of image regions which are within the image.
3. An image processing method comprising:  
carrying out a compression process with respect to an image by employing a compression algorithm in conformance with JPEG2000; and  
setting an image region that is within the image and has an aspect ratio and/or size different from those of the image, as a Region Of Interest (ROI).
4. An image processing method comprising:  
obtaining encoded data that has been compressed by dividing an image into a plurality of divided regions and compressing the divided regions in a state where each of the divided regions are independent of one another; and  
converting the encoded data into converted encoded data so that boundaries of the

divided regions of the encoded data approximately match boundaries of one or a plurality of image regions of the converted encoded data, wherein the image regions are within the image and have aspect ratios and/or sizes different from those of the image.

5. The image processing method as claimed in claim 4, wherein the compression process employs a compression algorithm in conformance with JPEG2000, and converting the encoded data includes approximately matching boundaries of tiles, precincts or code blocks used in the compression process of the encoded data to the boundaries of the one or plurality of image regions.

6. An image processing method comprising:  
carrying out a conversion process with respect to encoded data of an image that has been compressed by employing a compression algorithm in conformance with JPEG2000;  
and  
converting the encoded data into converted encoded data of an image region that is within the image and has an aspect ratio and/or size different from those of the image, as a Region Of Interest (ROI).

7. An image processing apparatus comprising:  
a compression unit to carry out a compression process that divides an image into a plurality of divided regions and compresses the divided regions in a state where each of the divided regions are independent of one another;  
a first setting unit to set aspect ratios and/or sizes; and  
a second setting unit to set boundaries of the divided regions in order to approximately match boundaries of one or a plurality of image regions which are within the image and have aspect ratios and/or sizes set by the first setting unit.

8. The image processing apparatus as claimed in claim 7, wherein the compression unit carries out a compression process employing a compression algorithm in conformance with JPEG2000, and the second setting unit approximately matches boundaries of tiles, precincts or code blocks used in the compression process to the boundaries of the one or plurality of image regions which are within the image.

9. The image processing apparatus as claimed in claim 7, comprising:  
a conversion unit to convert encoded data of the image into encoded data consisting solely of codes corresponding to the image regions.

10. The image processing apparatus as claimed in claim 7, comprising:  
a communication unit to communicate with an external device, the first setting unit setting the aspect ratios and/or sizes according to information that specifies the aspect ratios and/or sizes and is received from the external device by the communication unit; and  
a conversion unit to convert encoded data of the image into converted encoded data consisting solely of codes corresponding to the image regions,  
said communication unit transmitting the converted encoded data to the external device.

11. The image processing apparatus as claimed in claim 7, comprising:  
an expansion unit to expand encoded data of the image by expanding only codes corresponding to the image regions.

12. An image processing apparatus comprising:  
a compression unit to carry out a compression process with respect to an image by employing a compression algorithm in conformance with JPEG2000;  
a first setting unit to set an aspect ratio and/or size; and

a second setting unit to set an image region that is within the image and has the aspect ratio and/or size set by the first setting unit, as a Region Of Interest (ROI).

13. The image processing apparatus as claimed in claim 12, comprising:  
a conversion unit to convert encoded data of the image into encoded data consisting solely of codes corresponding to the image regions.

14. The image processing apparatus as claimed in claim 12, comprising:  
a communication unit to communicate with an external device, the first setting unit setting the aspect ratio and/or size according to information that specifies the aspect ratio and/or size and is received from the external device by the communication unit; and  
a conversion unit to convert encoded data of the image into converted encoded data consisting solely of codes corresponding to the image regions,  
said communication unit transmitting the converted encoded data to the external device.

15. The image processing apparatus as claimed in claim 12, comprising:  
an expansion unit to expand encoded data of the image by expanding only codes corresponding to the image regions.

16. An image processing apparatus comprising:  
an obtaining unit to obtain encoded data that has been compressed by dividing an image into a plurality of divided regions and compressing the divided regions in a state where each of the divided regions are independent of one another;  
a first setting unit to set aspect ratios and/or sizes;  
a second setting unit to set the divided regions so that boundaries of the divided regions approximately match boundaries of one or a plurality of image regions which are

within the image and have the aspect ratios and/or sizes set by the first setting unit; and  
a conversion unit to convert the encoded data into converted encoded data which has been compressed using the divided regions set by the second setting unit.

17. The image processing apparatus as claimed in claim 16, wherein a compression process carried out to obtain the encoded data employs a compression algorithm in conformance with JPEG2000, and the second setting unit sets the divided regions so that boundaries of tiles, precincts or code blocks used in the compression process of the encoded data approximately matches the boundaries of the one or plurality of image regions.

18. The image processing apparatus as claimed in claim 16, wherein said conversion unit converts the encoded data of the image into converted encoded data consisting solely of codes corresponding to the image regions.

19. The image processing apparatus as claimed in claim 16, comprising:  
a communication unit to communicate with an external device, the first setting unit setting the aspect ratios and/or sizes according to information which specifies the aspect ratios and/or sizes and is received from the external device by the communication unit,  
said conversion unit converting the encoded data of the image into converted encoded data consisting solely of codes corresponding to the image regions, and  
said communication unit transmitting the converted encoded data to the external device.

20. The image processing apparatus as claimed in claim 16, comprising:  
an expansion unit to expand the encoded data of the image by expanding only codes corresponding to the image regions.

21. An image processing apparatus comprising:  
a conversion unit to carry out a conversion process with respect to encoded data of an image that has been compressed by employing a compression algorithm in conformance with JPEG2000;  
a first setting unit to set an aspect ratio and/or size;  
a second setting unit setting an image region that is within the image and has the aspect ratio and/or size set by the first setting unit, as a Region Of Interest (ROI), and  
the conversion unit converting the encoded data into converted encoded data having the Region Of Interest (ROI).

22. The image processing apparatus as claimed in claim 21, wherein the conversion unit converts the encoded data of the image into converted encoded data consisting solely of codes corresponding to the image regions.

23. The image processing apparatus as claimed in claim 21, comprising:  
a communication unit to communicate with an external device, the first setting unit setting the aspect ratios and/or sizes according to information which specifies the aspect ratios and/or sizes and is received from the external device by the communication unit,  
the conversion unit converting the encoded data of the image into converted encoded data consisting solely of codes corresponding to the image regions, and  
the communication unit transmitting the converted encoded data to the external device.

24. The image processing apparatus as claimed in claim 21, comprising:  
an expansion unit to expand the encoded data of the image by expanding only codes corresponding to the image regions.

25. An electronic camera for picking up a still or dynamic image, comprising:

an imaging unit to pick up an image;  
a compression unit to carry out a compression process which divides the image into a plurality of divided regions and compresses the divided regions in a state where each of the divided regions are independent of one another;  
a first setting unit to set aspect ratios and/or sizes; and  
a second setting unit to set boundaries of the divided regions in order to approximately match boundaries of one or a plurality of image regions which are within the image and have aspect ratios and/or sizes set by the first setting unit.

26. An electronic camera for picking up a still or dynamic image, comprising:  
an imaging unit to pick up an image;  
a compression unit to carry out a compression process with respect to the image by employing a compression algorithm in conformance with JPEG2000;  
a first setting unit to set an aspect ratio and/or size; and  
a second setting unit to set an image region that is within the image and has the aspect ratio and/or size set by the first setting unit, as a Region Of Interest (ROI).

27. An electronic camera for picking up a still or dynamic image, comprising:  
an imaging unit to pick up an image;  
an obtaining unit to obtain encoded data which has been compressed by dividing the image into a plurality of divided regions and compressing the divided regions in a state where each of the divided regions are independent of one another;  
a first setting unit to set aspect ratios and/or sizes;  
a second setting unit to set the divided regions so that boundaries of the divided regions approximately match boundaries of one or a plurality of image regions which are within the image and have the aspect ratios and/or sizes set by the first setting unit; and  
a conversion unit to convert the encoded data into converted encoded data that has

been compressed using the divided regions set by the second setting unit.

28. An electronic camera for picking up a still or dynamic image, comprising:  
an imaging unit to pick up an image;  
a conversion unit to carry out a conversion process with respect to encoded data of the image that has been compressed by employing a compression algorithm in conformance with JPEG2000;  
a first setting unit to set an aspect ratio and/or size;  
a second setting unit setting an image region that is within the image and has the aspect ratio and/or size set by the first setting unit, as a Region Of Interest (ROI), and  
the conversion unit converting the encoded data into converted encoded data having the Region Of Interest (ROI).

29. An article of manufacture comprising one or more recordable media having instructions stored thereon which, when executed by a computer, cause the computer to perform an image processing method comprising:

causing the computer to carry out a compression process which divides an image into a plurality of divided regions and compresses the divided regions in a state where each of the divided regions are independent of one another; and

causing the computer to set boundaries of the divided regions in order to approximately match boundaries of one or a plurality of image regions which are within the image and have aspect ratios and/or sizes different from those of the image.

30. The article of manufacture as claimed in claim 29, wherein causing the computer to carry out a compression process causes the computer to carry out the compression process which employs a compression algorithm in conformance with JPEG2000, and the setting procedure causes the computer to approximately match boundaries



of tiles, precincts or code blocks used in the compression process to the boundaries of the one or plurality of image regions which are within the image.

31. An article of manufacture comprising one or more recordable media having instructions stored thereon which, when executed by a computer, cause the computer to perform an image processing method comprising:

performing a compression process with respect to an image by employing a compression algorithm in conformance with JPEG2000; and

setting an image region that is within the image and has an aspect ratio and/or size different from those of the image, as a Region Of Interest (ROI).

32. An article of manufacture comprising one or more recordable media having instructions stored thereon which, when executed by a computer, cause the computer to perform an image processing method comprising:

causing the computer to obtain encoded data which has been compressed by dividing an image into a plurality of divided regions and compressing the divided regions in a state where each of the divided regions are independent of one another; and

causing the computer to convert the encoded data into converted encoded data so that boundaries of the divided regions of the encoded data approximately match boundaries of one or a plurality of image regions of the converted encoded data, wherein the image regions are within the image and have aspect ratios and/or sizes different from those of the image.

33. The article of manufacture as claimed in claim 32, wherein the compression procedure causes the computer to perform the compression process which employs a compression algorithm in conformance with JPEG2000, and the conversion procedure causes the computer to approximately match boundaries of tiles, precincts or code blocks used in the compression process of the encoded data to the boundaries of the one or plurality of image

regions.

34. An article of manufacture comprising one or more recordable media having instructions stored thereon which, when executed by a computer, cause the to perform an image processing method comprising:

carrying out a conversion process with respect to encoded data of an image that has been compressed by employing a compression algorithm in conformance with JPEG2000; and

converting the encoded data into converted encoded data of an image region that is within the image and has an aspect ratio and/or size different from those of the image, as a Region Of Interest (ROI).